

U.S. Embassy Bahrain

Demonstration Notice 21 – March 18 , 2014

There has been increased use of IEDs throughout the country during the January and February time period. Additional IED attacks remain likely through March 31st. The IEDs have been secreted into areas along certain neighborhood streets and common streets throughout the restricted areas. Avoid areas where the MOI's security forces are gathered due to the threat of likely pending anti-Government of Bahrain (GOB) activities. Do not attempt to drive through or otherwise remove debris strewn across roadways. Use caution during this time period and alter your daily routes of travel to avoid known problem areas.

Today, March 18, 2014, at 3:30 pm, a violent opposition group has called for a funeral procession to take place from the Alkharjiya cemetery to the neighboring Wadyan cemetery area. Anticipate that the road networks into and around these neighborhoods and the Sitra causeway will be affected through the evening hours. Avoid this highway. Expect increased police activity and traffic congestion. Clashes are likely in these areas (Yellow Oval).

In light of recent events, the Embassy recommends you increase your general situational awareness both at home and away from home. Certain violent, anti GOB groups, and pro-Government of Bahrain groups are calling for continued protests. The violent anti-GOB groups are calling for increased activities throughout the country. These acts will likely take place inside of the restricted areas, but they could spill over. Pro-Government groups will likely protest in areas outside of the restricted areas. Anticipate that the Budaiya Highway corridor will experience increased acts along its length through March 31.

There have been no direct attacks on U.S. citizens to date. We recommend that you continually exercise the appropriate level of security awareness in regards to anti-U.S. activity or events. Spontaneous and, at times, violent anti-government of Bahrain protests continue to occur, particularly at night and on weekends. These protests have included blockades of major highways with burning debris and the establishment of unofficial checkpoints. Protestors have thrown rocks and Molotov cocktails and used homemade weapons to include improvised explosive devices and shotgun like projectile launchers. To counter these acts the Ministry of Interior will utilize crowd control measures, such as tear gas, stun grenades, and birdshot. Violent clashes between security forces and protestors can make travel in and around Bahrain dangerous without advance warning. The Ministry of Interior maintains official checkpoints in certain areas. We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Internet website at travel.state.gov where the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Country Specific Information](#), [Travel Warnings](#), and [Travel Alerts](#) can be found. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. Download our free Smart Traveler app, available through [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#), to have travel information at your fingertips. In addition to information on the internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, from other countries, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday, Eastern Time (except U.S. federal holidays). The U.S. Embassy in Manama can be reached at (973) 1724-2700; the afterhours emergency number is (973) 1724-2957; the fax number is (973) 1725-6242. The Embassy's [website](http://bahrain.usembassy.gov), <http://bahrain.usembassy.gov>, includes travel information and the Worldwide Caution and Demonstration Notices. All U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#). The Consular Section can be reached at ManamaConsular@state.gov.

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BAHRAIN: OFF-LIMITS AREAS

